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POOR MAN'S COUNTRY

Sumpter Gold Fields the
Evergreen Tonapah
and Backdoor
Klondike

Harry T. Hendryx, junior member of the Geiser-Hendryx investment company, returned this morning from an extended trip to the east and south. The majority of his time was spent in Chicago, in conference with Alexander Prussing, the gentleman who was an important figure in the successful reorganization of the Red Boy mine, and who, with the Geiser-Hendryx company, is engaged in the task of endeavoring to perform a like service with Golconda affairs.

"Plans for a reorganization of the Golconda company are nearing consummation," said Mr. Hendryx to a Miner reporter this morning. "I have strong hopes that everything will turn out right without friction. The old stockholders who are favorable to the plan of reorganization of Alexander Prussing, who has been made trustee, are already sending in their stock for exchange for certificates in the new company, which he hopes to shortly organize upon a basis of one-third the capital stock of the present three million-dollar corporation controlling the mine. I am not at liberty to give the details of the negotiations now in progress toward a reorganization of the Golconda, but you may quote me as saying that shortly after the first of next year the old mine will be reopened on a large scale and made again to add its wealth to the world. This is a consummation devoutly to be wished by all the mining men of eastern Oregon. The Golconda has too long been permitted to lay idle. Its closing down has hurt the whole camp in a large measure, for the reason that outsiders who are not familiar with the facts in the case are impressed with a wrong belief that the mine is no good, that it has been worked out, and that its stockholders have been buncoed. We who are on the ground know that the Golconda is a good mine, and with competent management it can be made one of the heaviest dividend payers in the Sumpter gold fields."

Asked by the reporter regarding

conditions in the east with relation to western mining investments, Mr. Hendryx said:

"There is plenty of eastern money for investment in western mines. This money is in the hands of a different class of people than obtained a few years ago. Those easterners who during the past year have been gambling in industrial stocks on the Chicago and New York exchanges, have come to a realization of the error of their ways, and are now placing their coin on the winning card—western mines.

"I was surprised this trip to discover that easterners have a thorough and complete knowledge of the conditions obtaining in eastern Oregon. They know, for instance, that the Sumpter smelter has transformed this camp from a region of half a dozen big milling plants into a region abounding in hundreds of shipping properties. They know that eastern Oregon is the poor man's camp today; that no longer is it necessary for a small mine operator during the initial stages of his operations to go head over heels in debt for a stamp mill and concentrating plant, because the smelter is close at hand, affording a ready market for all the ore he can ship.

"The statement that eastern Oregon is a poor man's camp may sound odd to those who labor under a belief that such a term applies only to the Klondike and similar out-of-the-way places, where gold can be washed out in a dish pan. And in this view of the matter sight is lost of the fact that it is worth a man's life to make the trip from the states into the god-forsaken northern country, and that it requires a small fortune in the way of fare to make the trip, with the changes largely in favor of failure when the journey is completed.

"Here in Oregon, where Pullman cars run within a dozen miles of mine, which are steadily outputting thousands upon thousands of dollars monthly; where the climate is far from severe; where wood for fuel, water for power and milling operations, and timber for buildings are abundant; where wagon roads with easy grades make mountain transportation easy and cheap; where every fissure vein goes down as deep as modern mining machinery can go; where every pound of ore taken from the ground finds a ready market at the highest market prices; where every natural condition is favorable to cheap mining and easy prospecting—here, in Oregon, is the poor man's country par excellence. And that is the reason why, after visiting almost every mining camp on the face of the map of the west, I am firm in the belief that Oregon is good enough for me. Tonapah and Goldfields may spring up and attract stampedes; Klondike may rise and fall; but old Oregon stands always in the front rank of money-making mining states.

"The Lewis and Clark fair next year will result in the bringing into this camp of thousands of people—prospective investors and men with money looking for a chance to make good. Sumpter can show these people something worth while, and the result will be that following the fair visitors will come a stream of eastern money for investment in our mines. We want to lay aside our petty personal differences and work together to show up this camp as it should be shown—a palley which will build right here in eastern Oregon the greatest gold mining camp in America."

Oregon Looks Good to Him.

M. P. Black, a mine operator from Munice, Indiana, arrived in Sumpter yesterday on a trip of inspection of the Sumpter gold fields. He was met at the depot by Anthony Mohr and driven to the string of big Cracker Creek mother lode mines, James A. Howard, president of the First National bank, of Sumpter, accompanying the party. The North Pole, E. and E., Columbia, Taber Farotian, Golconda and a few other mother lode producers were visited. Mr. Black returning in time to board the train for a western trip. He expressed himself as highly pleased with this district, saying that he had no idea that Oregon could boast of such great mines. He expects to return sometime in the near future and identify himself with this region.

Goes to Mormon Basin.

Warren Cable started today via Bourne, Rock Creek and Baker City on a trip to Pedro mountain and Mormon basin, where he is directed by eastern mine buyers to make examination of the Reynolds and Platt properties on Pedro mountain, near the Golden Gate quartz mill, and also properties in the Mormon basin, near by. From recent reports from that section there will be seven mines worked there this winter and much activity is predicted. It is expected to resume work soon on the Morning Star group in the Mormon basin. The Rainbow and Hattie B. are being worked and the ore milled from these properties. P. G. Wells and A. Otness will work there all winter.

Work at the Morning.

Three shifts of miners, under O'Hara and Cheyne, contractors, are rushing work on the new crosscut at the Morning mine, which, according to latest reports, is in forty-five feet. They are making five feet a day. A good sized force is also employed on the outside, getting out and framing mining timbers and erecting better winter quarters, in preparation for uninterrupted work during the snowy season.

BELLEVUE SENDS TEST SHIPMENT

30 Tons of Concentrates
Delivered Today
at Sumpter
Smelter

Fred E. Cable, one of the principal owners of the famous La Bellevue mine, arrived in Sumpter yesterday from Granite on business connected with the smelter, to which he is making shipments of concentrates. Two four-horse teams are engaged in transporting the product, which is the accumulation at the old Bellevue mill, which shut down several years ago. The first shipment consisted of thirty tons as a test. Report comes from Granite that should the test prove satisfactory, La Bellevue will again become a steady shipper. Mr. Cable when seen by a Miner reporter this morning, would neither affirm nor deny the truth of the report. From his reticence is deduced the suspicion that negotiations are pending for the property, which is one of the most valuable in the Granite district, but which has been tied up for many years by warring stockholders, who have so far been unable to get together on any reasonable basis.

Fred Cable is one of the pioneers of this district, having been intimately identified with mining development hereabouts for the past thirty years.

All Ready at the Red Boy.

John Thomson, acting manager of the Red Boy mine, came up to Sumpter this morning, accompanied by his family, and this afternoon drove out to Granite. He says that everything is now in readiness for resumption of operations at this famous old producer. Timbers for mining purposes and lumber for building has been cut by the May Queen sawmill. Surface work has been cleaned up, and all that now remains is for the reorganized company to assume charge and carry out its plans for operation on a large scale.

After a shut down for three days, to make some repairs on the blower, the smelter is again in operation. This forenoon the wind blew the sulphur smoke over town and every one decaled the odor was delightful—from a business standpoint.